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Hilary Alcock
Headteacher
Buntingsdale Primary School and Nursery
Buntingsdale Park
Tern Hill
Market Drayton
TF9 2HB

Dear Mrs Alcock

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to Buntingsdale Primary School and Nursery, Shropshire local authority.

Following my visit to your school on 3 May 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on the findings of my visit. Thank you for the help you gave me and for the time you made available to discuss the actions you are taking to improve the school since the most recent section 5 inspection.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in January 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. A learning walk was completed with the headteacher. The school improvement plans were also evaluated.

Context

No changes have taken place since the school's previous inspection.

Main findings

Since the previous inspection, you have:

- introduced a more rigorous cycle of monitoring of teaching and learning,
- included details of the expected improvements in the quality of teaching in your action plan
- made sure that you have a full complement of teachers
- made good use of external support including working with a national leader in education.

Your development plan focuses well on improving teaching but does not always state clearly what impact improvements are expected to have on pupils' attainment and progress. Standards in reading are rising because you have a consistent approach to the teaching of reading with staff carefully assessing pupils' progress. In order to maintain this improvement staff must ensure they check that the books pupils are reading at home include the sounds they are learning the in daily phonics lesson. Further work is required to improve standards in writing. When marking pupils' work, teachers do not consistently make sure that pupils' punctuation, grammar and handwriting is accurate. Neither do they provide clear guidance on what makes a good piece of work or provide time for pupils to respond to and act on any suggestions for improvement, particularly in term of handwriting and punctuation and some aspects of grammar.

Reports from subject leaders, although providing a useful summary, do not always make clear the precise impact their actions are having on pupils' progress and the quality of teaching. You and governors acknowledge that staff will need further support as the school gradually increases its numbers and takes in the full range of Key Stage 2 pupils.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommend that further action is taken to make sure that:

- you link more closely the evidence from book trawls and data when making judgements on quality of teaching
- you make sure that governors regularly receive precise information about the achievement of pupils in all year groups so that they can ask more searching questions about the impact of teaching
- marking is more rigorous so that teachers ensure that pupils do not repeat the same mistakes over and over again
- you devise a plan to identify exactly which writing skills need to be taught in which year group.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The local authority in partnership with a national leader in education is providing you an effective level of support. Their support has helped you revise your action plans, prioritise actions and to begin to strengthen governance. The local authority acknowledges you will need further support from local authority officers to complete the transition to a primary school

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Shropshire.

Yours sincerely

Jacqueline Wordsworth
Her Majesty's Inspector